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(54) ***BACILLUS* STRAINS AND COMPOSITIONS**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

In one aspect, the present invention relates to novel *Bacillus* strains ENV 734 (NRRL B-50800), ENV 735 (NRRL B-50801), ENV 736 (NRRL B-50802), and ENV 737 (NRRL B-50803). These strains possess a high degree of homology with both *Bacillus simplex* and *Bacillus butanolivorans*, but unexpectedly exhibit desirable high salt tolerance as well as low temperature growth and urease production. In another aspect, the present invention relates to compositions comprising at least one of such strains and an acceptable carrier, and methods of preparing the compositions. Such compositions are suitable for use in industrial, agricultural, aquacultural, environmental, wastewater treatment and/or probiotic applications. Methods for enhancing the growth of a plant propagative material and methods for treating wastewater are also provided.

20 Claims, No Drawings